

As an owner of a commercial, 69' fishing vessel, I am not in favor of this regulation for the following reasons.

Cost: Vessel owners of limited entry fisheries will spend \$3000.00 on VMS this year. The cost of this program to a private boat owner is prohibitive. We are barely making ends meet now.

A cost benefit to safety on or off the water is not evident. 9/11 did not arrive on a commercial fishing boat.

Safety: We transit Puget Sound to the ocean 30 times a year, monitor Seattle Traffic, have radar and gps plotters. We spend 90% of time in route outside the traffic lanes. A safety issue has not arisen in the 28 years I have operated on these waters.

Burden of Government: Another intrusion into our lives by the government in the name of safety or?

Short notice and comment period. How untimely - in the middle of the fishing season for most operators, this comment period of 30 days is inadequate and should be lengthened.

Final note: if this regulation is necessary, consider a 200 ton minimum size or something other than a small coastal boat of 65 feet.

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